

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03339 121929Z

72

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 L-02 NEA-06 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 MBFR-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

NSC-10 NSCE-00 RSR-01 /063 W
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R 121800Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 813

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3129

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3339

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP TO DPC MINISTERIAL: BURDEN SHARING

REF: A) STATE 106196; B) STATE 106504

SUMMARY. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE TOLD JULY 10 PERMREPS LUNCH THAT GOB WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THAT ASPECT OF THE US BURDEN-SHARING INITIATIVE DEALING WITH ADDITIONAL \$400-\$500 MILLION US BUDGETARY COSTS INCURRED IN STATIONING FORCES IN EUROPE. DE STAERCKE SAID THAT TO BE HELPFUL TO US, HIS GOVERNMENT NEED PARTICULARS OF THESE BUDGETARY COSTS IN CLEAR, UNAMBIGUOUS NUMBERS. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON PROVIDE US WITH INFORMATION AS REQUESTED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO DELEGATIONS, AND READY ONE OR MORE WASHINGTON EXPERTS FOR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS HERE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT PERMREPS LUNCH JULY 10, AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE INDICATED BELGIUM IS TAKING VERY SERIOUSLY US BURDEN-SHARING INITIATIVE AS DISCUSSED BY AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD IN THE COUNCIL, BY ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SPRINGSTEEN IN WASHINGTON, AND THEN BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AT THE JUNE DPC MINISTERIAL. CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 03339 121929Z

2. DE STAERCKE CALLED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MR. SPRINGSTEEN'S JUNE 1 WASHINGTON BRIEFING (REF A) DURING WHICH THERE HAD BEEN A QUESTION ABOUT THE ADDITIONAL COSTS THE US INCURS AS A RESULT OF MAINTAINING ITS TROOPS ON OVERSEAS STATIONS IN

EUROPE. THIS BUDGETARY COST WAS QUITE APART FROM THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COSTS RESULTING FROM STATIONING US TROOPS IN EUROPE.

3. DE STAERCKE RECALLED THAT AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD MADE A BRIEF REFERENCE TO ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY COSTS IN HIS PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE BELGIAN EMBASSY AT WASHINGTON, MR. SPRINGSTEEN HAD SPECIFIED THAT THIS ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY COST AMOUNTED TO SOME \$400 TO \$500 MILLION PER YEAR.

4. DE STAERCKE SAID BELGIUM IS INTERESTED IN THIS BUDGETARY FACTOR BUT NEEDS MORE PARTICULARS, AS HAD BEEN PROMISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HE AGAIN REQUESTED PARTICULARS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PERMREPS INCLUDING KRAPF (FRG) AND PECK (UK) ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THE REQUEST.

5. AFTER AN EXCURSION BY SOME PERMREPS, WHICH REVEALED THEIR TOTAL CONFUSION AS BETWEEN BOP AND BUDGETARY COSTS, DE STAERCKE BROUGHT THE DISCUSSION BACK TO LATTER SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT NUMBERS RELATING TO BUDGETARY COSTS WERE MUCH MORE MANAGEABLE AND LESS AMBIGUOUS TO THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES THAN BOP FIGURES WHICH WERE ALWAYS RATHER AMBIGUOUS AND SUBJECT TO VARYING INTERPRETATIONS.

6. NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR (SPIERENBURG) RECALLED THAT LORD CARRINGTON AT JUNE DPC MINISTERIAL HAD EXPRESSED SOME UK WILLINGNESS TO ADDRESS BOP PROBLEMS BUT NOT THOSE INVOLVING BUDGETARY SPENDING. SPIERENBURG SAID THE NETHERLANDS SHARED THE BRITISH VIEW.

7. DE STAERCKE CONCLUDED DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT BY SAYING THAT BELGIUM NEEDED CLEAR, UNAMBIGUOUS BUDGETARY NUMBERS IF IT IS TO BE OF HELP TO THE US IN THE MATTER OF BURDEN SHARING.

8. COMMENT: THE ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY COST IDEA IS APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 03339 121929Z

NEW AND INTERESTING TO GOB, AND DE STAERCKE MAY BE HELPFUL TO US IN GETTING A PROGRAM OF COMPENSATION UNDERWAY AND ACHIEVING CONCRETE RESULTS. MCAULIFFE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO03339
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12-31-79
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730767/abqcebec.tel
Line Count: 100
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A) STATE 106196; B) STATE 106504
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <20-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOLLOW-UP TO DPC MINISTERIAL: BURDEN SHARING
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005